A True Account

OF THE

Election at Cambridge

March the Third, 168⅞.

10. March. 168⅞

THough ſome Perſons have of late obtruded ſeveral Relations of *Elections* upon the Nation, which were only the Fictions of their own Imagination; and, not contented with laying their Scene ſo remote, that they were aſſured no Perſon would take the pains to prove them Lyars. Elephant *Smith* has had the impudence, ſo natural to him, to venture at a Forgery under the very Noſe of the City, without the leaſt colour of truth, in the late pretended *Addreſs* at the Election at *Hampſtead Heath*; yet, I hope, it will be no prejudice to the truth of the following Relation, which, if occaſion be, will be ſupported by the Teſtimony of ſo many Worthy and Loyal Gentlemen, and others that were preſent at it.

Upon *Thurſday* the Third of this Inſtant *March*, the Gentlemen and Free-holders of the County of *Cambridge* and the Iſle of *Ely*, proceeded upon his Majeſties Writ, to the Election of Knights to ſerve for the County in the enſuing Parliament at *Oxford*; the Candidates were Sir *Levinus Bennet* Baronet, Sir *Robert Cotton* Knight, *Edward Patborich*, and *Gerrard Ruſſel* Eſquires; the two laſt having been Members in the Commons Houſe in the Parliament of 1679. and the two firſt, of the late Parliament; wherein they acquitted themſelves with that Loyalty, Prudence, and Moderation, as became worthy Patriots, to the general ſatisfaction of the People, whom they repreſented.

A Poll being demanded and granted, all things were carried with a great evenneſs and calmneſs, till towards the concluſion, when ſome of the *Diſſenting Proteſtants*, doubting the Event, began to buſtle, purpoſely to gain ſome foundation for a future Petition; and one of his Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace, for taking notice of their Inſolence, had like to have fallen under the judicature of their Club-Law: but he ſeaſonably demanding, Whether the *Fanaticks* had a mind to out-do the *Papiſts*, by murdering a *Juſtice of Peace* in the Execution of his Office in the very face of the Countrey? the fear of *Infamy* proved a more *reſtraining Grace* to the Conſciences of their *Clubs*, than the *Club-Principles* of their Conſciences. But the Affront was ſo reſented by the Generality of the Free-holders, that, after the ſhutting up the Poll, Sir *R. Cotton* was obliged to afford

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afford the Civility of attending one of the Gentlemen, who loſt the Election, to his Coach, to avoid his being further affronted than by hiſſing and hooting, which it was impoſſible to prevent.

Upon the caſting up the Books, it was found, that

Sir *Robert Cotton* had Voices	1400.
Sir *Levinus Bennet*	1375.
Mr. *Patherich*	1068.
Mr. *Ruſſel*	1008.

The Election being proclaimed, the Knights, Gentlemen, and moſt Subſtantial Free-holders, did, in their own, and the name of the Body of the Free-holders of the *County* and *Iſle* aforeſaid, preſent this following *Addreſs* to their Worthy Repreſentatives.

To Sir Levinus Bennet *Baronet, and Sir* Robert Cotton *Knight, Knights choſen for the County of* Cambridge, *and Iſle of* Ely, *to be their Repreſentatives in Parliament, ſummoned by his Majeſty to ſit at* Oxon, *the One and twentieth of* March 1680.

The Deſire and Requeſt of the Free-holders of the ſaid County *of* Cambridge, *and* Iſle *of* Ely.

BEing ſenſible of the great Obligation you have laid upon your Country, by your Loyal and prudent Conduct, during the late Seſſion of Parliament, we knew not how to give a better Demonſtration of our Gratitude for the ſame, than by this our ſecond Election of you to attend the ſame Service.

And to make good the Confidence we repoſe in you, we doubt not but you will repreſent, as well our Duty and Affections to his Moſt Sacred Majeſty, as our Perſons, in any other concern whatever.

And, Seeing our Lives and Liberties, Religion, and indeed, our *ALL*, as to this World, under God, depends upon his Majeſty, we cannot but make it our earneſt Requeſt to you, that you will ſhew all imaginable Regard and Tenderneſs to his Perſon; that you timely provide for his Juſt ſatisfaction and Contentment, and take care to ſecure his Honour and Grandeur, wherein the Intereſt and Safety, as well as the Glory and Renown of our Nation is ſo intirely ſumm'd up.

We therefore do moſt earneſtly deſire you, to uſe your utmoſt endeavour to preſerve the Government of Church and State, as now by Law eſtabliſhed; and in order to that, to ſuppreſs all Seditious and Scandalous Practiſes, wherewith many diſaffected Perſons have moſt inſolently and inſufferably libell'd and defam'd it.

There are other things which every dayes Occurrences will ſuggeſt to you, but the Enforcements of the Laws already eſtabliſhed, will ſuperſede all farther Addreſs upon that account, which we do therefore moſt heartily recommend to your Care and Prudence.

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